

#### Members

Sen. Connie Lawson, Chairperson  
Sen. Connie Sipes  
Rep. Vanessa Summers  
Rep. Jackie Walorski  
Kelly Christy  
Tracie Wells  
Rebecca Bickel  
James L. Greeson  
Teresa Voors  
Sue Ellen Reed  
Nathan Feltman  
Judith A. Monroe  
Zach Main



## COMMITTEE ON CHILD CARE

*Legislative Services Agency*  
200 West Washington Street, Suite 301  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2789  
Tel: (317) 233-0696 Fax: (317) 232-2554

#### LSA Staff:

Chris Baker, Fiscal Analyst for the Committee  
Ann Naughton, Attorney for the Committee

Authority: IC 12-17.2-3.3 (SEA 104-2007)

### MEETING MINUTES<sup>1</sup>

**Meeting Date:** August 5, 2008  
**Meeting Time:** 9:30 A.M.  
**Meeting Place:** State House, 200 W. Washington St., Rm. 233  
**Meeting City:** Indianapolis, Indiana  
**Meeting Number:** 1

**Members Present:** Sen. Connie Lawson, Chairperson; Sen. Connie Sipes; Rep. Vanessa Summers; Rep. Jackie Walorski; Kelly Christy; Tracie Wells; James L. Greeson; Sue Ellen Reed; Nathan Feltman; Judith A. Monroe.

**Members Absent:** Rebecca Bickel; Teresa Voors; Zach Main.

The first meeting of the Committee on Child Care for the 2008 interim was called to order at 9:47 AM. Chairwoman Lawson read the charge of the Committee. Following the reading of the charge, the Committee members and staff were called on by the Chair to introduced themselves to the attending public.

Chairwoman Lawson said that although established by law, the Committee did not meet during the last interim. The Chair recognized Michelle Thomas (Child Care Administrator, Child Development Division of the Family and Social Services Administration) to testify.

Ms. Thomas' presentation included background on the Bureau of Child Care and the state day care rating system known as "Paths to Quality". Her testimony was partly coordinated with Melanie Brizzi (special consultant on child care matters with FSSA).

Ms. Thomas passed out several documents to support her presentation (see Exhibit A). Exhibit

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<sup>1</sup> Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.in.gov/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

A includes a copy of Ms. Thomas' PowerPoint presentation, the Indiana Bureau of Child Care 2007 Annual Report, a report on the Paths to Quality (PTQ) system, and a sample marketing brochure on PTQ.

Ms. Thomas also included a five-minute demonstration video in her presentation, further explaining the PTQ program.

Several points of discussion were raised by Committee members with Ms. Thomas, including the following.

Chairwoman Lawson asked if the federal government audits Bureau of Child Care (BCC) grants. Ms. Thomas replied that the State Board of Accounts (SBA) audits the program every year. She said when she began as Child Care Administrator three years prior, there were seven findings in the SBA audit. Currently, the program has no findings.

Ms. Thomas stated that since the BCC program is not an entitlement program, there must be a budget in place and the program cannot serve everyone seeking services.

Chairwoman Lawson reflected that there was a poverty level change four or five years back which reduced the number of families the program could assist. She noted it was a shame that the cutoff was at 127% of the federal poverty level.

Ms. Thomas said that the poverty level change translated into 10,000 children cut from the program on her first day as administrator. She said that Governor Daniels has since allowed additional funding to reach from the TANF grant to the BCC program.

Representative Walorski asked Ms. Thomas about the amount of Indiana's federal grant. Ms. Thomas said it was \$300 M.

Representative Walorski asked if the grant is renewable and if the amount can go up. Ms. Thomas said that the grant is biannually applied for and the amount is flat-lined continuously.

Chairwoman Lawson asked if the increased funding for BCC affected the state's federal grant. Ms. Thomas said the grant is not affected; however, the state can transfer up to one-third of the federal grant (equaling \$62 M) to the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF).

After Ms. Thomas shifted her presentation to the PTQ program, Representative Summers asked if registration by ministries was voluntary and how many have registered. Ms. Thomas said registration is voluntary to all child care providers.

Tracy Wells asked how the PTQ program currently markets to parents. Ms. Thomas replied that by learning from other states about marketing, one key is to not market too early to parents until other key objectives are in place. She mentioned these objectives as provider improvement, provision of introductory sessions to potential registrants, and recruitment of registrants. She finished by saying that marketing towards parents will begin next year.

Melanie Brizzi added that the program would not be rolled out completely until January 2009. She described previous local initiatives, including pilot programs in Fort Wayne and Evansville. She continued that these programs are evaluated by Purdue University.

Chairwoman Lawson asked Ms. Brizzi if the state plan would work similarly to the Fort Wayne and Evansville pilot programs. Ms. Brizzi said the state plan would be modeled on the Fort Wayne/Evansville model.

Following the playing of the promotional video, Tracie Wells asked what were the biggest stumbling block(s) that prevent child care providers from seeking registration. Ms. Thomas responded that lack of facilities, child/staff ratios, and unsupportive church wards were part of the reason that providers are reluctant to register with the state.

Ms. Brizzi remarked further that keeping up on paper records and other requirements necessary to be registered are also large barriers. Additionally, she added that child/staff ratios and lack of facilities (such as fenced playgrounds) tend to make providers shy away from registration. She stated that in Indianapolis, a Lilly Company endowment provides a funding mechanism to care providers for capital expenditures. She said, Indianapolis plans, at some point, to add the PTQ program. Ms. Brizzi concluded that having a person as a mentor at no cost to providers is important. The plan is not to replace regulation, but rather provide the parent with a tool to make informed child care decisions.

Following Ms. Thomas' presentation, the Chair recognized Marsha Thompson of the Indiana Association of Child Care Resources and Referral (IACCRR) to speak.

Ms. Thompson distributed materials to assist with her presentation (see Exhibit B). The materials packet included a map, statistics, and background information on the IACCRR. She said the IACCRR subcontracts with various child care services and serves three populations: families (with consumer education), providers, and communities. She said the IACCRR is most known for its assistance to families. In addition, she said the IACCRR offers professional training support to providers, community support and outreach, and is a partner in PTQ. She continued that the IACCRR is involved in Hispanic/Latino outreach as well.

Specifically, Ms. Thompson detailed that the IACCRR gives orientation training to child care programs seeking registration with the state. They provide mentors for programs in transition from level one to level two and between levels three and four. She said they are striving to support Spanish-speaking populations and to improve work settings for child care employees.

Representative Summers commented that Spanish-speaking populations are often the hardest with which to gain trust. She asked Ms. Thompson what exactly are they doing for Spanish speakers. Ms. Thompson answered that the IACCRR employs a native Spanish speaker to help coordinate with existing resources, such as schools and activity centers, to assist Spanish-speaking parents.

Representative Summers asked if IACCRR is involved with the illegal immigration issue. Ms. Thompson replied that the IACCRR was not involved with illegal immigrants, although they refer them to other agencies for assistance.

Representative Walorski asked where the funding for IACCRR came from. Ms. Thompson replied that their funding was 98% through the Bureau of Child Care via the federal grant and that they are paid to be part of the mentor process through PTQ.

Following Ms. Thompson's testimony, Dianna Wallace with the Indiana Association for the Education of Young Children testified that the focus of her Association was professional development efforts on how to increase the quality of care for employees in Fort Wayne. The efforts, she said, include private support (from local employers such as Cummins). The program, called T.E.A.C.H., also received \$1.5 M in seed money from the state, according to Ms. Wallace.

Ms. Wallace stated the three main objectives of the Association are to do the following:

- Increase care education.
- Increase compensation for those that have achieved greater educational attainment.
- Increase retention by reaching agreements with educated care workers to remain in child care employment for a set period of time.

Ms. Wallace also described the other programs within the Association. These programs are detailed in a packet provided by Ms. Wallace (see Exhibit C).

After Ms. Wallace's testimony, Chairwoman Lawson commented that she felt it was important to provide groundwork on what the state is doing regarding child care for the new persons on the Committee. She restated that access to child care is important. She asked the members to think over the next couple of weeks about what had been discussed during the meeting. She asked that the members provide her, from their perspective, what they consider to be important and that she would appreciate hearing their comments.

With no further business before the Committee, Chairwoman Lawson adjourned the meeting at 11:25 AM.